

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 /080 W
----- 069287

R 112300Z SEPT 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333

USUN NEW YORK 0074

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT BELIZE TOOK PLACE WITH NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE.

2. IN BELIZE CITY WHERE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE SEEMED GREATEST, RIVAL CEREMONIES OF GOVERNMENT AND UDP OPPOSITION WERE HELD WITHOUT INCIDENT. POLICE ESTIMATES OF ATTENDANCE AT RESPECTIVE CEREMONIES WERE: GOVERNMENT 3,000; UDP 5,000.

3. VAZO SPEAKER AT GOVERNMENT CEREMONY WAS PRIME MINISTER BARROW OF BARBADOS WHO GAVE BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE ASPIRATIONS A ROUSING ENDORSEMENT.

4. PREMIER PRICE'S SPEECH SKETCHED THE HISTORY OF THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY FORMER COLONIES OF EUROPEAN POWERS, NOTING THAT ONE OF THEM IS TODAY "THE RICHEST AND THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE WORLD" AND THAT OTHERS ARE PROGRESSING RAPIDLY IN THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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TM PREMIER ALSO DWELT ON SUPPORT FOR BELIZE INDEPENDENCE MANIFESTED AT CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN KINGSTON IN MAY AND AT CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN LIMA IN AUGUST.

6. CONCERNING BELIZEAN EFFORTS IN UN, PREMIER NOTED GOB WAS SENDING MISSION TO NEW YORK HEADED BY FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSAD SHOMAN WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. AS TO WHAT GOB HOPES TO ACHIEVE AT UN, PRICE SAID "WE SEEK ONE THING ONLY AND THAT IS TO REMOVE CLAIM BY A FOREIGN STATE TO INCORPORATE BELIZE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES, TO REMOVE THE CONTINUING THREAT TO ENFORCE THAT CLAIM BY MILITARY MEANS AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE, TO REMOVE THIS THREAT WHICH HANGS OVER US BY ENLISTING ALL THE AUTHORITY AND THE SUPPORT OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL BODY. WE SEEK THE BACKING AND STRENGTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS SO THAT BELIZE SHALL BE FREE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR OF EXTERNAL DOMINATION, FREE TO PROCEED TO SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE IN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBORS."

7. PREMIER'S SPEECH ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A SUPPORTING US ROLE IN BELIZE INDEPENDENCE ASPIRATIONS. "IT WAS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A NEW AMERICAN NATION, WHICH LED THE MOVEMENT TO INDEPENDENCE IN THE AMERICAS, AND WHICH NEXT YEAR WILL BE CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF ITS OWN INDEPENDENCE. IT WAS PRESIDENT KENNEDY OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SAID: "LET US REMEMBER, HOWEVER SERIOUS THE OUTLOOK, HOWEVER HARSH THE TASK, THE ONE GREAT IRREVERSIBLE TREND IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS ON THE SIDE OF LIBERTY." WE CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO STAND FIRM ON THE SIDE OF LIBERTY AND TO UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER AMERICAN PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE, FREE FROM EXTERNAL THREATS OF ANY KIND."

8. PREMIER HAD CALLED ME ASIDE AT RECEPTION FOR PRIME MINISTER BARROW SEPT 9 AND PERSONALLY underscored HIS HOPES FOR U.S. SUPPORT. HE TOLD ME WHAT HE INTENDED TO SAY IN HIS SPEECH THE FOLLOWING DAY AND ASKED THAT I PROMISE TO REPORT IT. (I PROMISED.) AT THE CEREMONY HE GREETED ME WITH A COPY OF THE SPEECH AND AGAIN enjoined ME TO REPORT IT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

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OM COMMENT. FOREGOING IS BUT THE MOST RECENT OF SEVERAL OCCASIONS ON WHICH PRICE AND HIS INTIMATES HAVE EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT GOB SEES U.S. ATTITUDE CRUCIAL TO THIS COUNTRY'S ULTIMATE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE.

GAWF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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